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INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, AUSTRALIA, FEBRUARY 1988

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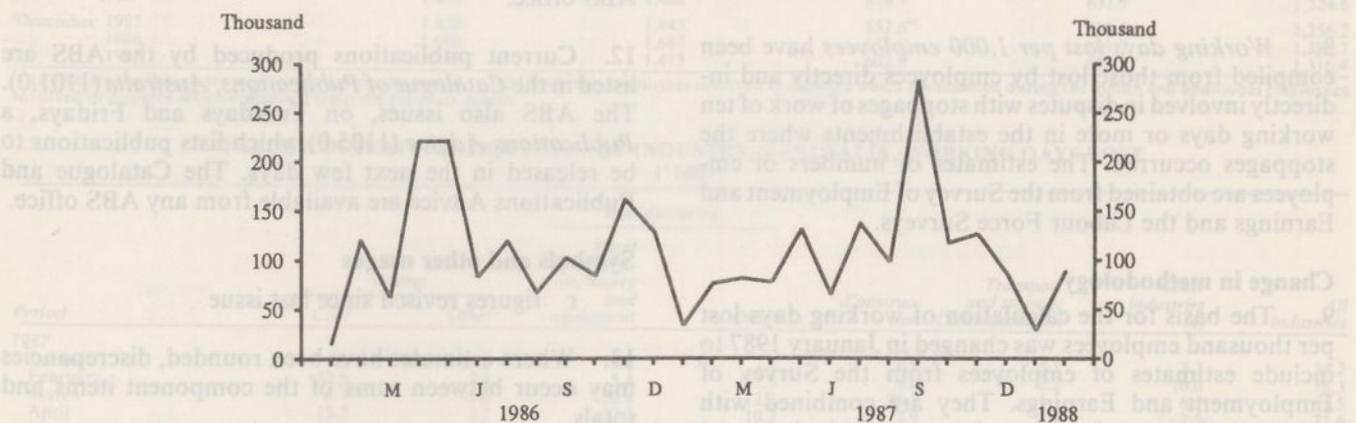
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MAIN FEATURES

WORKING DAYS LOST, AUSTRALIA



In February 1988, there were 89,500 working days lost by 53,300 employees in 143 disputes compared with 29,200 working days lost by 12,600 employees in 86 disputes in January 1988.

Of the 89,500 working days lost in February 1988, 9,200 were lost due to a number of disputes over National Wage Case second-tier claims.

Of the 143 disputes in February, 18 had more than 1,000 working days lost.

In the 12 months ended February 1988 1,324,600 working days were lost compared with 1,365,100 and 1,143,800 working days lost in the 12 months ended February 1987 and February 1986 respectively.

For the 12 months ended February 1988, the number of working days lost per thousand employees was highest in New South Wales (338) and the lowest in South Australia (99).

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

The statistics relate to disputes which have occurred in all industries and involved stoppages of work of ten working days or more at the establishments where the stoppages occurred. Ten working days is equivalent to the amount of ordinary time worked by ten people in one day.

2. The figures of working days lost relate to the losses due to industrial disputes (as defined in paragraph 4) and not to aggregate losses for the economy as a whole. Details shown in this publication refer to all disputes in progress during the reference period indicated.

3. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled mainly from data obtained from employers (both private and government) and trade unions concerning individual disputes

and from reports of government authorities. Particulars of some stoppages (for example, those involving a large number of establishments) may have been estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving only a broad measure of the extent of industrial disputes (as defined).

Definitions

4. For these statistics an *industrial dispute* is defined as a withdrawal from work by a group of employees or a refusal by an employer or a number of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work, each withdrawal or refusal being made in order to enforce a demand, to resist a demand, or to express a grievance. A dispute affecting several establishments is considered to be a single dispute if it is organised or directed by one person or organisation, otherwise it is counted as a separate dispute at each establishment.

5. Employees involved include employees directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Employees indirectly involved are those thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute.

6. Differences between monthly and annual totals of employees involved can occur due to temporary cessations of stoppages that resume in subsequent months. Employees re-involved in this type of dispute are included in the monthly totals.

7. Working days lost refer to working days lost by employees directly and indirectly involved in the dispute and figures are generally as reported by parties to the dispute. For some disputes working days lost are estimated on the basis of the number of employees involved and the duration of the dispute.

8. Working days lost per 1,000 employees have been compiled from those lost by employees directly and indirectly involved in disputes with stoppages of work of ten working days or more in the establishments where the stoppages occurred. The estimates of numbers of employees are obtained from the Survey of Employment and Earnings and the Labour Force Surveys.

Change in methodology

9. The basis for the calculation of working days lost per thousand employees was changed in January 1987 to include estimates of employees from the Survey of Employment and Earnings. They are combined with estimates of the number of employees in Agriculture and in Private households obtained from the Labour Force Survey to derive the denominator. The estimates on this basis included in Tables 4 and 5 have been recalculated for each month back to January 1984 and are available on request. In issues of this publication prior to January 1987 the estimates of numbers of employees were based entirely on Labour Force Survey data. The effect of the change is minimal at the 'all industries' level but is quite significant, in some cases, for individual industry groups.

Other ABS publications

10. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:

Industrial Disputes, Australia (6322.0)—issued annually, contains more detailed information including statistics on the cause, method of settlement and duration of industrial disputes.

Labour Statistics, Australia, 1986 (6101.0)

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)—issued monthly

Trade Union Statistics, Australia 30 June 1986 (6323.0)

Trade Union Members, Australia, August 1986 (6325.0)

Employed Wage and Salary Earners, Australia (6248.0)—issued quarterly

Unpublished statistics

11. In some cases, the ABS can also make available information which is not published. This information may be made available in one or more of the following forms: microfiche, photocopy, data tape, computer print-out clerically-extracted tabulation. Generally, a charge is made for providing unpublished information. Inquiries should be made to the officer whose name appears in the *Phone Inquiries* section of the inquiries box at the front of this publication, or to Information Services in the nearest ABS office.

12. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

r figures revised since last issue

13. Where estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

Electronic services

VIATEL. Key *656# for selected current economic, social and demographic statistics.

AUSSTATS. Thousands of up-to-date time series are available on this ABS on-line service through CSIRONET.

For further information phone the AUSSTATS Help Desk on (062) 52 6017.

TELESTATS. This service provides foreign trade statistics tailored to users' requirements.

Further information is available on (062) 52 5404.

Floppy disk service

Selected ABS statistics are available on floppy disk. Further information is available on (062) 52 6684.

IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of disputes		Employees involved ('000)			Working days lost ('000)
	Commenced in period	Total(a)	Newly involved(b)	Total(a)		
1987						
January	91	95	12.8	15.1		34.2
February	124	140	25.9	41.8		76.3
March	148	166	54.8	63.6		81.5
April	117	138	62.3	66.3		77.6
May	126	146	80.3	106.7		131.5
June	126	145	35.8	41.4		65.2
July	117	135	49.7	51.5		137.8
August	109	122	39.5	52.1		98.8
September	114	127	60.3	84.9		282.6
October	138	151	60.6	64.5		117.6
November	164	178	86.0	97.8		126.7
December	97	115	34.8	49.7		86.5
1988						
January	81	86	12.2	12.6		29.2
February	133	143	43.5	53.3		89.5
<i>Twelve months ended -</i>						
February 1986	1,790	1,809	519.1	526.3		1,143.8
1987	1,663	1,680	674.0	694.1		1,365.1
1988	1,470	1,488	619.7	637.3		1,324.6
December 1985	1,830	1,845	552.6	570.5		1,256.2
1986	1,680	1,687	673.9	691.7		1,390.7
1987	1,471	1,475	602.8	605.3		1,316.4

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) Comprises employees involved in disputes which commenced during the month and additional employees involved in disputes which continued from the previous month.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : BY INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST
('000)

Period	Number ('000)	Manufacturing							All industries	
		Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other	Construction	Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries (a)		
		Coal	Other							
1987										
January	1.0	13.5	3.8	2.7	6.8	3.1	3.3	34.2		
February	30.8	2.4	5.4	17.5	8.0	2.2	10.0	76.3		
March	6.7	4.0	20.8	12.2	26.2	5.1	6.5	81.5		
April	15.2	3.7	27.3	10.2	7.9	5.9	7.5	77.6		
May	30.1	1.8	39.5	25.7	19.5	5.7	9.1	131.5		
June	7.3	4.7	12.4	15.1	15.0	3.0	7.7	65.2		
July	35.3	10.3	23.9	14.8	43.0	2.2	8.4	137.8		
August	17.7	6.0	14.2	21.7	11.7	3.6	23.7	98.8		
September	97.9	2.8	23.1	6.8	38.6	4.5	108.9	282.6		
October	15.8	4.4	12.7	13.6	19.5	26.5	25.1	117.6		
November	21.7	1.3	9.9	29.2	5.7	4.2	54.7	126.7		
December	11.5	0.7	6.5	25.9	0.7	26.5	14.6	86.5		
1988										
January	10.1	0.9	1.3	1.3	7.5	1.5	6.6	29.2		
February	36.4	11.4	8.4	7.6	7.2	3.4	15.1	89.5		
<i>Twelve months ended -</i>										
February 1986	213.4	96.1	93.0	182.3	170.9	154.1	234.0	1,143.8		
1987	309.0	187.6	190.9	220.9	122.9	56.4	277.4	1,365.1		
1988	305.8	52.1	200.1	184.1	202.4	92.1	288.0	1,324.6		
December 1985	233.8	106.4	107.3	189.4	175.3	180.4	263.7	1,256.2		
1986	362.0	179.4	187.4	205.3	117.7	57.6	281.4	1,390.7		
1987	291.1	55.7	199.6	195.5	202.4	92.5	279.6	1,316.4		

(a) Comprises Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; Electricity, gas and water; Wholesale and retail trade; Finance, property and business services; Public administration and defence; Community services; Recreation, personal and other services.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST
('000)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust. (a)
1987							
January	12.7	3.5	1.3	0.6	14.4	0.4	34.2
February	44.6	19.6	2.8	0.3	4.2	0.3	76.3
March	41.2	20.9	2.4	2.2	11.3	1.3	81.5
April	52.6	11.0	3.4	1.5	3.9	2.1	77.6
May	84.2	27.6	7.7	5.5	2.9	2.6	131.5
June	19.1	16.8	12.4	5.1	7.8	1.3	65.2
July	81.6	25.6	7.7	9.9	3.3	7.8	137.8
August	22.1	50.3	4.1	5.2	14.7	2.1	98.8
September	185.9	40.1	9.6	5.3	37.6	2.1	282.6
October	61.2	37.9	3.4	4.1	6.8	1.3	117.6
November	88.6	9.7	16.2	2.5	7.3	1.3	126.7
December	47.6	26.3	2.8	2.5	1.1	5.4	86.5
1988							
January	9.6	1.6	13.2	0.6	3.4	0.3	29.2
February	51.7	9.5	7.8	5.3	12.4	0.9	89.5
<i>Twelve months ended -</i>							
February 1986	409.4	343.9	220.9	23.7	92.4	22.6	1,143.8
1987	568.0	393.2	156.2	44.6	154.4	27.3	1,365.1
1988	745.5	277.3	90.6	49.6	112.6	28.5	1,324.6
December 1985	398.7	355.9	336.2	22.5	92.9	20.7	1,256.2
1986	598.8	381.8	173.4	46.2	143.1	29.2	1,390.7
1987	741.5	289.3	73.7	44.6	115.3	28.0	1,316.4

(a) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

TABLE 4. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : BY INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)

Period	Manufacturing								All industries	
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment	Employed Wage & Salary		Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries (b)			
	Coal	Other		Other	Construction					
1984	3,913	3,745	343	416	503	372	91	248		
1985	6,898	1,931	255	312	666	432	71	228		
1986	10,773	3,328	445	328	458	135	72	242		
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>										
1987										
February	9,168	3,567	456	353	477	131	70	237		
March	8,904	3,589	478	356	566	124	70	240		
April	4,881	3,238	526	353	580	127	67	215		
May	5,103	2,890	424	363	453	113	65	199		
June	5,128	2,415	432	365	476	98	65	195		
July	5,658	2,071	468	339	617	80	63	198		
August	6,046	1,571	485	355	648	83	67	203		
September	8,793	1,401	512	290	770	91	90	233		
October	8,757	1,427	497	281	829	149	91	238		
November	8,884	1,283	474	287	808	158	84	231		
December	8,902	1,069	479	305	773	217	69	223		
<i>1988</i>										
January	9,243	817	473	302	771	213	69	222		
February	9,490	981	480	286	764	216	70	223		

(a) See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Comprises Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; Electricity, gas and water; Wholesale and retail trade; Finance, property and business services; Public administration and defence; Community services; Recreation, personal and other services.

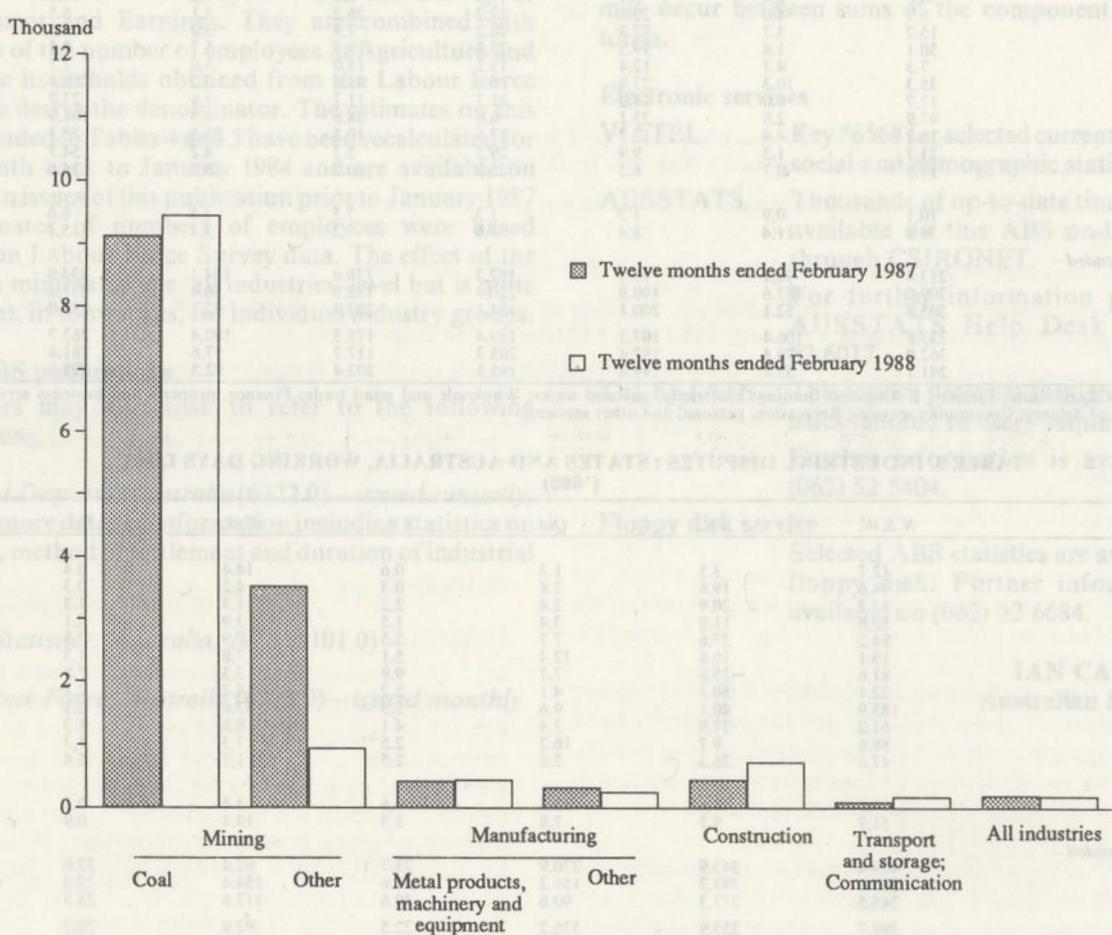
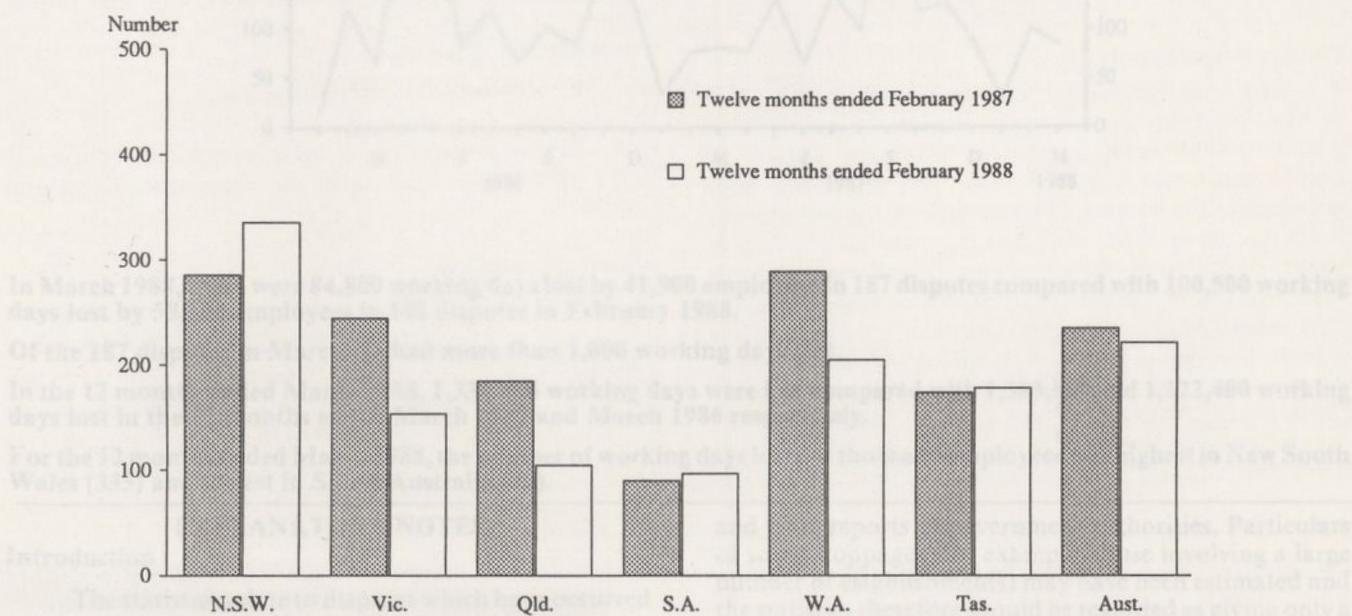
CHART 1. WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES

TABLE 5. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.(b)
1984	357	132	302	55	256	350	248
1985	209	236	411	47	187	138	228
1986	304	240	207	95	272	190	242
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>							
<i>1987</i>							
February	288	247	187	92	291	176	237
March	290	252	186	91	303	179	240
April	255	246	121	91	271	190	215
May	251	220	114	61	241	161	199
June	232	222	125	70	249	118	195
July	226	208	110	83	231	150	198
August	229	229	106	87	199	159	203
September	299	235	94	91	243	162	233
October	309	240	91	95	242	160	238
November	328	198	90	92	235	148	231
December	340	164	87	90	212	177	223
<i>1988</i>							
January	r336	162	101	90	192	r177	222
February	338	156	107	99	207	180	223

(a) See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

CHART 2. WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES



(b) The figures of working days lost refer to the losses due to industrial disputes as defined in paragraph 3 and not to aggregate losses in the economy as a whole. Details shown in the following table refer to all disputes in progress during the period covered indicated.

(c) This table provides a reconciliation mainly between the figures given in the following table concerning individual disputes

Definitions

4. For these statistics an *industrial dispute* is defined as a withdrawal from work by a group of employees or a refusal by an employer or a number of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work, each withdrawal or refusal being made in order to enforce a demand, to resist a demand, or to express a grievance. A dispute affecting several establishments is considered to affect all those establishments. Disputes originating in one establishment by one person or organization are likewise disseminated as a separate dispute at each establishment.

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Classification	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991		1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	
					Other	Manufacturing								
SAC	982	985	82	Metallurgical products, iron and steel	981	982	981	982	982	982	982	982	982	982
SES	983	981	78	Machine tools and	983	983	983	983	983	983	983	983	983	983
SAS	984	985	89	mechanical, tools and	985	985	985	985	985	985	985	985	985	985
Period	Coal	Other	Equipment	Other	Other	Manufacturing	Other							
1984														
1985	871	8,082	1,049	343	416	983	922	7	91	1,081	1,081	1,081	1,081	1,081
1986	871	8,282	1,049	313	761	982	982	432	71	1,081	1,081	1,081	1,081	1,081
1987	871	10,282	1,049	308	826	982	138	72	72	1,081	1,081	1,081	1,081	1,081
1988	871	115	1,049	151	942	982	982	982	982	982	982	982	982	982
1989	871	1,049	1,049	111	622	982	982	982	982	982	982	982	982	982
1990	871	985	1,049	251	477	982	982	982	982	982	982	982	982	982
January	871	985	1,049	201	356	982	982	982	982	982	982	982	982	982
February	871	985	1,049	253	982	982	982	982	982	982	982	982	982	982
March	871	985	1,049	253	982	982	982	982	982	982	982	982	982	982
April	871	985	1,049	253	982	982	982	982	982	982	982	982	982	982
May	871	985	1,049	253	982	982	982	982	982	982	982	982	982	982
June	871	985	1,049	253	982	982	982	982	982	982	982	982	982	982
July	871	985	1,049	253	982	982	982	982	982	982	982	982	982	982
August	871	9,815	1,576	485	578	981	981	981	981	981	981	981	981	981
September	871	9,793	1,401	312	299	981	981	981	981	981	981	981	981	981
October	871	1,427	497	281	289	981	981	981	981	981	981	981	981	981
November	871	1,295	473	281	289	981	981	981	981	981	981	981	981	981
December	871	985	1,049	473	101	981	981	981	981	981	981	981	981	981
1991	871	985	1,049	701	981	981	981	981	981	981	981	981	981	981

(a) See paragraph 5 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Construction, Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, Electricity, gas and water, Wholesale and retail trade, Finance, property and business services, Public administration and defence, Community services, Recreation, personal and other services.

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